

**SB600-JPR-FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



**BRANDON M. SCOTT**  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
88 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**SB600**

February 13, 2025

**TO:** Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

**RE:** Senate Bill 600 – Baltimore City - Stop Sign Monitoring Systems - Authorization

**POSITION: Favorable**

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 600.

SB 600 would authorize the Baltimore City Council to establish a stop sign monitoring program in school zones in Baltimore City. The ability for our students to safely travel to and from school each day is of the utmost importance to the BCA and this legislation would provide an additional tool to ensure motorists are following all rules and regulations for our roads. This tool would work in conjunction with the school zone speed enforcement program to ensure that not only are motorists traveling at safe rates of speed around our schools but are also stopping their vehicles when at an intersection that includes a stop sign. Baltimore City, like many major cities, has a significant portion of our student population that uses public transportation or walks to school each day. The City has been implementing through its Complete Streets Manual, many significant improvements to support multi-modal transportation. With additional pedestrians and cyclists on our roadways, ensuring motorists are coming to full and complete stops at stop signs is increasingly important.

The Baltimore City Department of Transportation performed an analysis of non-motorist crashes within city limits from January 1, 2021 to December 21, 2023. Within that time frame there were 253 instances of those incidents occurring at or near intersections with stop signs. More recently, we have had several pedestrians struck by vehicles. While we do not have specific data concerning incidents within school zones, there have been several incidents over the last few years and our student population includes some of our most vulnerable residents. By allowing the City to enact local legislation to establish a stop sign monitoring program, we will be able to better protect our students as they travel to and from school each day.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on SB 600.

# **SB 600 Bill Title Baltimore City – Stop Sign Monit**

Uploaded by: tamika winkler

Position: FAV

CORY V. MCCRAY  
Legislative District 45  
Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*

Chair, Health and Human Services

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Executive Nominations Committee

Legislative Policy Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Vote Yes on Senate Bill 600**

**Bill Title: Baltimore City – Stop Sign Monitoring Systems**  
**Committee: Baltimore City Senate Delegation**  
**Hearing Date: February 10, 2024**

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Esteemed Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I write today in strong support of Senate Bill 600, which aims to improve traffic safety in Baltimore City by allowing the use of stop sign monitoring systems at critical intersections. This legislation authorizes the deployment of these systems to address the persistent issue of traffic violations at stop signs, which often endanger pedestrians, cyclists, and residents—particularly in areas with high foot traffic like schools and residential neighborhoods.

Baltimore City is home to many busy intersections, where reckless driving and failure to stop at stop signs contribute to dangerous conditions for those on foot and behind the wheel. As a city that values community safety, we must use every tool at our disposal to protect our most vulnerable citizens. By utilizing stop sign monitoring systems, we can ensure that drivers adhere to traffic laws, reduce accidents, and safeguard our children and families.

The expansion of automated enforcement through SB 600 will not only enhance public safety but also foster compliance with existing traffic regulations. These systems provide an effective and efficient way to monitor and penalize violations, ensuring accountability without the need for increased manpower. This bill is particularly critical for neighborhoods where traffic enforcement resources are limited but the risks of dangerous driving remain high.

Transparency and community engagement are integral to the success of this initiative. Under current law, the deployment of automated enforcement systems requires approval from the local governing body, which ensures that these systems are introduced responsibly and with community input. This process allows us to strike the right balance between safety and civil liberties, creating a framework that works for everyone.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the committee to give a favorable report to Senate Bill 600. This legislation is a commonsense, impactful step toward improving traffic safety in Baltimore City, and I believe it will make our neighborhoods safer for everyone who lives, works, and travels here.

Continued Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cory V. McCray".

Cory V. McCray  
45<sup>th</sup> District